



Sunday, October 4th 2026
19th Sunday After Pentecost & Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi
9:00 a.m.

St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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Office Hours:

Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

or by appointment

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

God has planted us in love, tended us with mercy, and called us to bear the fruits of justice and peace. Yet we do not always receive God's gifts with gratitude, nor do we always bear the fruit God desires. Trusting in the mercy of the One who continues to seek us, tend us, and call us home, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful God, you have planted us in your vineyard and surrounded us with your steadfast love. Yet we continue to grow in ways that hurt our neighbors and all of creation. Forgive us, O God. Prune away all that keeps us from loving you and serving our neighbors. Graft us anew into Christ, and by your Spirit make our lives fruitful. Amen.

Hear the good news: God has not abandoned the vineyard. In Jesus Christ, God comes among us with mercy stronger than our sin and life stronger than death. In the waters of baptism, you have been grafted into Christ † through whom you are forgiven and sent to share the goodness of God.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC *St. John Immanuel Bell Choir*
Blessed Assurance

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of steadfast love,

You have planted us in your vineyard and grafted us into Christ, the true vine. Tend us with your mercy, prune away all that keeps us from bearing the fruit of your kingdom, and nourish us with the grace of Christ's own life. When we turn from your ways, draw us again to Christ, that, we may bear the fruits of justice, mercy, and love; through Christ, we pray.

Amen.

READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 80:7-15

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.

You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;

behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes”? “Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be-neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
 Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Responding to “Hear us, O God,” with “**Your mercy is great.**”

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Everything we have is a gift from God, entrusted to our care for a time. And so our offering is one way we tend what God has given us—sharing our gifts so that love may be sown, neighbors may be cared for, and the fruits of God’s kingdom may grow. For the vineyard belongs to God, and the harvest does too. Let us give with grateful and generous hearts.

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZEVQ/home>

GIVE THANKS

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am rich,” because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say, “I am rich,” because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth,

Your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Receive these offerings and use them to bring your love into the world. Through Christ our Lord we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever & ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

As autumn colors unfold and leaves fall in a tapestry of color, we are reminded that seasons change, yet God's love endures forever. As the harvest is gathered in to nourish us through the winter, we remember that God continues to sustain us through every season. At this table of abundance, Christ gathers us in every season of life—in moments of plenty and in times of letting go, in the beauty of change and in the promise of renewal. Here there is bread for the journey, wine for the soul, and grace for every turning of the year. Here Christ gathers us together, like many grains made into one loaf and many grapes into one cup. This is Christ's table, and all are welcome here.

LAMB OF GOD (page 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Come, Let Us Eat

Leader or All



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
 3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
 come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
 in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
 rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Leader or All



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

All



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
 in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.
 Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.
 Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of life,

We give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Go now, rooted in the love of God, grafted into Christ, and nourished by the Holy Spirit. May God till up the soil of your heart, filling you with love and grace.

May Christ sow seeds of hope in you, nourishing them to sprout and grow.

May the Spirit cultivate peace in you, sending you forth rejuvenated.

And may the Triune ✠ God spring forth fruit from places unexpected. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave,
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed, Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve,
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race,

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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DISMISSAL Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

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Blessing for animals and pets

[pet/animal name], may God bless you, beloved creature of God. For the joy and companionship you bring, and for the ways you teach us to delight in each day, we give God thanks. May you be kept safe from harm, given health and rest, gentle hands to care for you, and a life filled with kindness. May you be surrounded by love, cherished all your days, and treasured as the good creature of God that you are. Amen.

Welcome to all! Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones.

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John Immanuel and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex.

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to Christ's Table.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, or if you or a loved one is in the hospital and would like a visit from Pastor Maggie, please contact St. John Immanuel (715) 675-6950

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring **non-perishable grocery** items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Shopping Cart*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. Quilters meet! (Or whatever time works for you) They will be finishing quilts in preparation for the upcoming deadline (first Saturday in October). You don't need to be able to sew on a sewing machine. Come join us and see what we do!

Sunday, October 4th at 10:30 a.m. Youth Gathering Meeting Calling all 8th – 12th graders! Anyone interested or curious about going to the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis summer of 2027. This will be an information session! If you can't make the meeting and want to go to the gathering, please let Pastor Maggie know.

Wednesday, October 7th Youth Group High school students are invited to attend our first Youth Group meeting on Wednesday, October 7th 6:30pm-7:30pm. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you plan on joining us!

Sunday, October 11th Noisy offering! Bring your coins (bills also accepted 😊). This noisy offering will go to: **“Youth Gathering – *We’re raising money to support our youth programs, events, and activities. Thank you for helping our youth grow in faith!*”** Noisy offering will be the 2nd Sunday of the month. Money will be donated quarterly.

Tuesday, October 13th Pumpkin Carving for Calvary’s Luminary Fest Our middle and high school students are invited to carve at 6:30pm-7:30pm at St. John Immanuel. Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the Narthex if you plan on carving! We will be joined by youth from St. Andrews ELCA in Rib Mountain, and all carved pumpkins will be donated to the Annual Fall Luminary Fest at Calvary Lutheran Church ELCA in Merrill. Calvary's Fall Luminary Fest is Fri, Oct 16th and Sat Oct 17th from 5pm-9pm. Hundreds of carved pumpkins will light up their 3/4 mile trail. Free to the public.

Monday, October 26th at 6:30 p.m. Book Club *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi.

Saturday, November 14th Feed My Starving Children MobilePack - Packing Team: St. John Immanuel has pledged to send 32 volunteers to Highland Community Church to pack meals of rice, soy, vegetables and vitamins on Saturday, November 14th from 9am-11am. This year, the Wausau MobilePack will pack it's one millionth meal! Please sign up in the Narthex to be a part of this energetic and impactful team and see what just two hours of service can accomplish! Email Kim Landwehr with questions kamootz@gmail.com

Tuesday, December 8th at 5:45 p.m. Calling all ladies! The Sisterhood Gathering is right around the corner. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex with additional details.

Thursday, December 17th at 5:30 p.m. Candlelit Shepherds Meal. Save the date! More information to come.

Monday, December 21st at 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, and for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time.

June 28th – July 2nd 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering 8th to 12th graders fall of 2026, we need to know your commitment by November 8th. Please see flyer for more details.

Youth Pizza Fundraiser We’re raising money to support our youth programs, events, and activities. Your support makes a huge difference!!! Thank you for helping our youth grow in faith and fellowship! Please see information in the Narthex for details!

Maine School Snack Drive Maine Elementary is looking for our help with donations of snacks to help assist students who are unable to bring their own. Approved snack list: *Fruit pouches, original potato chips, most fruit snacks, fruit leathers, or fruit bars, Skinny pop or Boom Chicka Pop Popcorn, beef sticks or jerky, dried fruits (raisins, mango, etc.), Enjoy Life, Made Good, or Blake's brand snacks, and or Veggie Straws or veggie chips.* Your help will be greatly appreciated! Any questions please reach out to Ann Ohrmundt at stjohnwausau@gmail.com.

Calling all current college students! - Did you know St. John Immanuel now offers scholarships for college? St. John Immanuel is pleased to announce scholarship applications are now open until **Sunday, November 1, 2026** for current college students. Visit <https://stjohnwausau.org/education/scholarships/> for information and application materials. Not yet a college student? Keep watching for further updates.

Parking Lot Update: Please see Flyer in the Narthex for updated information.

Do you like Texas Roadhouse? Enjoy a meal on a Sunday and earn money back to St. John Immanuel! Bring our church bulletin, turn it into your server, and St. John Immanuel will receive 10% back from your food sales!

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall or on our website! Help support St. John Immanuel with Kwik Trip gift cards!

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John Immanuel October 4th – October 11th

Today – Sunday, October 4th

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour / Sunday School – An Angel Frees Peter

Tuesday, October 6th

6:30 p.m. Scholarship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 7th

8:30 a.m. Quilters Meet

6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

Saturday, October 10th

Synod Council Retreat Crossways Pine Lake - Waupaca

Sunday, October 11th

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship – VBS Recap & Noisy Offering!!

10:15 a.m. **Coffee Hour / Sunday School – Paul's Letter

****Donations from Coffee hour will go towards a new refrigerator in our Fellowship Hall Kitchen.**